

HIGH IN THE HILLS...

THINK SMALL

The Mirror House, Dolomites

Sleeps two, in one room From £1,045 per week Surrounded by the Dolomites of South Tyrol, which make for the perfect winter escape, and orchards filled with apple trees in early autumn, the Mirror House is one of two extraordinary villas that stand side by side. Designed by Milan-based Peter Pichler Architects, the mirrored surfaces of these two contemporary houses reflect the surrounding mountainous landscape that awaits your exploration. edgeretreats.com

GO LARGE

Casa le Mimose, Umbria leeps 12, in six rooms From £3,163 per week This secluded luxury villa could only be found deep in the heart of The Murlo Estate, one of the most exclusive country retreats in Italy. Cookery courses and wine-tasting sessions in nearby Assisi will immerse you in the authentic Italian experience, while the pretty garden filled with lavender and cypress trees will help you relax. If you can bear to leave the landscaped pool, the surrounding estate is open to be explored, either via the 18-hole golf course or on a guided hike through the rolling Umbrian hills. akvillas.com

BEST FOR DESIGN

Eos 139, Costa Rica Sleeps ten, in five rooms From £9,219 per week High above the canopy of the Costa Rican rainforest, this luxury villa will take you as close to heaven as can be. With interiors made up of polished concrete floors, rustic wood features and 24-foot ceilings, the space feels urban and light, while the endless view from the infinity pool leads your eye over the treetops and all the way to the sea beyond. *luxuryretreats.com*

Hideaway up high From top: Eos 139 is a super-modern structure in the Costa Rican rainforest; Truffe Blanche, in Verbier, Switzerland, has its own hammam



MOST CURIOUS

Chateau de Baloigne, France

Sleeps 15, in six rooms
From £2,155 per week
Created within the ruins of a
medieval castle, Chateau de
Baloigne is one of the most
unique stays to be found
worldwide. Historians can marvel
at the 12th-century dungeons
and romantics can dream up
their very own fairy tale – while
modernists will approve of the
21st-century features that have
been tastefully incorporated.
oliverstravels.com

BIG SPENDER

Truffe Blanche, Switzerland

Sleeps 18, in nine rooms From £50,733 per week You get astronomical bang-foryour-buck at Truffe Blanche. There are the little things (nine different spa treatment rooms, a hammam, indoor pool, home cinema and private nightclub) and then there are bigger things (daily heli-skiing, tailors flown in from Milan, feasts on top of distant glaciers with tables and benches freshly carved from ice). But if you want to keep it simple, just admire the sumptuous interiors and Verbier's world-class skiing. hautemontagne.com

THE GLAMPERVAN

Ruby, Lake District
Sleeps two, in one room
From £200 per weekend
Technically, Ruby can be taken
anywhere, but the Lake District is
one of her favourite destinations.
With all the luxury of a boutique
hotel, the glitzy formerambulance comes with
a drinks cabinet, king-size bed,
a wood-burning stove – and
an all-important pop-up loo.
christabels.org

ograph: Luxury Retreats